

VETERANS' SERVICES

Fiscal Year 2005

VETERANS' BENEFITS

The Department of Veterans' Services continues to offer assistance to veterans and their families through a number of federal and state programs. The state veterans' benefits program provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families who qualify to receive benefits and can show need. These benefits provide for medical care and cash for living expenses.

The Department of Veterans' Services will also aid veterans and their families in the filing of federal forms that are necessary for them to receive a wide range of benefits provided by the Veterans Administration. The Department now has access to many veteran-related internet sites and government agencies.

FISCAL YEAR 2005

A new state veterans' cemetery was opened in Winchendon, Massachusetts and is accepting applications for burials. Our office can assist in filing the necessary forms for interment of veterans and their spouses at Bourne National Veterans' Cemetery, Agawam, or Winchendon state cemeteries.

The office employed 12 VA work-study students to assist in staffing Amherst Veterans' Services and the Veterans' Affairs Office at the University of Massachusetts. This program has been beneficial to the veterans, providing them with \$3,000 per semester in addition to their educational benefits; and the Department of Veterans' Services gains the equivalent of two full-time employees at no cost to the community.

If you are a veteran or you have a friend or relative who has served in the armed forces, we are asking that they register with our office so that we can better serve their needs and are able to give them the latest and best information available.

Rod Raubeson

Director of Veterans' Services